



PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

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פרשה: נשא הכטרה: יהיה איש אחד... ושמו מנוח ואשתו עקרה... (שפטים יג-כה)

אבות פרק א' דף יומי: שבת צ"ב

מצות עשה: 7 מצות לא תעשה: 11



Torah Thoughts



... איש או אשה כי יעשו מקל חטאת האדם למעל מעל בה' ואשמה הנפש ההוא. ... a man or a woman who commits one of the sins of mankind to be very faithless to G-d, that person shall bear guilt (במדבר ה:ו).

Stealing from any person is forbidden. Stealing from a גר, however, is an especially shameful sin. (ספרי ה:י"ג) tell us that the תורה considers someone who does such thing to be **very faithless to ד'**. Why is this so? ספורנו explains that stealing from a גר involves an added issue — an irreversible and painful השם, a desecration of the Name of ד'.

Imagine the scene. A gentile has seen the light of תורה and ד'. He has come to realize that the תורה is the truth and כָּלל יִשְׂרָאֵל are the chosen people. He works hard studying, learning, enveloping himself in the קדושה of קדושה and is finally accepted as a convert, coming under the wings of the שכינה. He comes to shul for מנחה, puts down his bag and joins the צבור. He feels proud of his closeness with ד' and His special nation. After מנחה, he goes to retrieve his bag, but it is gone. There were only Jews at the מנין. It was clearly stolen by a Jew! This thief has not only committed a crime of theft against the owner of the bag. He has made a terrible השם.

חלול (יומא פ"ו.) גמרא tells us, "What is considered a חלול said, 'If I were to buy meat from a butcher and fail to pay my bill right away.'" The greater the Jew, the greater the potential for חלול

in his deeds. For someone of רב's stature, all it takes to make a חלול is a small thing like paying a bill late. People measure all Jews by the behavior of their great leaders. For this reason, the greater the person, the greater the responsibility to act with great care. ד's honor depends on what such a person does.

The (הלכות יסודי התורה ה:י"א) רמב"ם writes that not only a תנא, but anyone renowned for his piety, who transgresses even slightly, is guilty of חלול השם. If the people of his generation look up to him, he bears the same responsibility as רב in his generation.

R' Yaakov Weinberg suggests that in our times, every Orthodox Jew is considered a great person renowned for his piety [especially a young בחור]. Whether we like it or not, we must realize that millions of non-observant Jews see all of us as holy rabbis serving ד', all day, every day, and measure our actions accordingly. This obligates us to treat all people with proper courtesy.

It does not matter if you are not among the גדולי הדור; it does not matter if you are not a תלמיד חכם; most of the people you encounter on a daily basis do not know the difference. They will see your ways and they will say, "That is the action of an Orthodox Jew!" It automatically puts you in the category of a great person as far as חלול השם is concerned.

Adapted from: **Rabbi Frand on the Parashah** (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

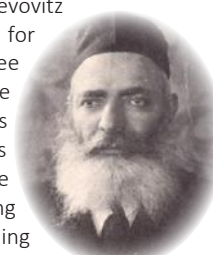


Yahrtzeits of our Gedolim

Levovitz ר' ירוחם הלוי ליבוניץ זצ"ל was born to אברהם and חסיה in Luban, Belarus. In his teens, he learned in Slabodka, becoming one of the foremost תלמידים of the Alter, זצ"ל ר' נתן צבי Finkel. In his early 20s, he attended Kelm, under R' Simcha Zissel Ziv זצ"ל. After his marriage to רבקה Levine, he learned without a תברותא for 8 years and completed ש"ס before serving as משגיח of the חפץ חיים in Radin. He became משגיח at Mir in 1910, a position he held for 26 years. His תלמידים included R' Leib Malin זצ"ל, R' Chaim Shmulevitz זצ"ל, R' Dovid Povarsky זצ"ל, R' Levi Krupenia זצ"ל and R' Shimon Schwab זצ"ל. His שיחות מוסר were published after he was נקטר, in דעת תורה, דעת חכמה ומוסר, נקטר and other ספרים.

Gedolim Glimpses

Levovitz ר' ירוחם once complained to חסיה זצ"ל, "Learning תורה all day is too much for me." חסיה זצ"ל asked him, "Did you ever see a farmer complaining that working the land is too much for him? No? That's because he knows that this is a part of his existence, and his work must be done if he wants to live. It is the same with learning תורה all day. If one recognizes that learning תורה is the real work for which man was created, and this work is part of his very existence, it will no longer feel like it is too much or too difficult."



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לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל לעיני הני ישעיהו דוב ע"ה בן יבלחטי"א יצחק צבי נ"י

This week's Pirchei Weekly is dedicated

To those selfless individuals and their נשי חיל who gave up of their time and put in the herculean efforts to assist our shuls with safely re-opening after being forced to close for so long! !הי רצון שילכו מסלול אצל חיל! הקב"ה יישר כתקם!

Focus on Middos

Dear Talmid,

נצ"ל ר' ירוחם Levovitz, **מְשִׁיבָה** in **מִיר**, was known to have a very special **קֶשֶׁר**, *closeness*, with each one of his hundreds of **תַּלְמִידִים**. R' Henoah Fishman נצ"ל related the following:

"Everyone knows there are many initial difficulties when joining a new **יְשִׁיבָה** such as finding a suitable **חֲבֵרוּתָא**, arranging for accommodations and meals, etc. It is unusual to walk into a **יְשִׁיבָה** and immediately be offered a **חֲבֵרוּתָא**.

"Yet as soon as I set foot in **יְשִׁיבַת מִיר**, a **בָּחוּר** approached me and asked, 'Maybe you would be willing to learn with me first **סֵדֶר**?' Naturally I agreed.

"Another **בָּחוּר** came over and asked me, 'Maybe you'd like to learn with me second **סֵדֶר**?' Of course I was happy to agree.

"Groups of **בָּחוּרִים** would have their meals in private lodgings and they rented rooms from the townspeople. Every **בָּחוּר** wanted to join a good group so that he could converse with the others in learning. A **בָּחוּר**

came to me and asked, 'Would you like to eat with us?' When I found out that it was an excellent group, I agreed immediately.

"I eventually learned that all these 'chance' encounters had been instigated and arranged by the **מְשִׁיבָה** himself. Until then, I was convinced that the **מְשִׁיבָה** didn't yet know me, but **ר' ירוחם** was focused on each and every **תַּלְמִיד**. He recognized everyone's potential and ensured that all their needs, both spiritual and material were met."

My **תַּלְמִיד**, not only did **ר' ירוחם** understand each and every **תַּלְמִיד**, he also created a **רוּחַ**, *atmosphere*, that mirrored his essence. He taught how to apply **מוֹסָר** to one's every day existence. It was 'natural' for older **בָּחוּרִים** to accept to learn first and second **סֵדֶר** with a 'new' **בָּחוּר**. It was also 'obvious' for good **בָּחוּרִים** to include a new **בָּחוּר** in their **חֲבֵרוּתָא**. Learning is the greatest opportunity in **בֵּין אֲדָם לְחֵבֵרוֹ!**

הֲיֵי זָכְרוֹ בְּרוּדִי!
Your רַבִּי בְּיָדוֹת,

A letter from a Rebbi — based on interviews

6th Annual Pirchei שַׁבַּת עֶרֶב Learning Contest 5780

The latest Pirchei Newsletter contest, which began in the weeks leading up to **קַבְלַת הַתּוֹרָה**, is designed to make your **עֶרֶב שַׁבַּת** fulfilling and memorable, especially in these difficult times. During the next few weeks, learn at least 45 minutes before **מִנְחָה** every **עֶרֶב שַׁבַּת**, in your home, **יְשִׁיבָה** or local **מִדְרָשׁ בֵּית**. Learn for an hour or more and get an additional raffle entry. There is no particular **לְמוּד** to learn — you can even review **מְקָרָא שְׁנִיִּים** and **תַּרְגוּמֵי**. If you arrange for a group to learn on the phone, and have a **שְׁעוּרָא** to learn about **הִלְכוֹת שַׁבַּת** or **קְדוּשַׁת שַׁבַּת**, you will receive an extra raffle entry. The contest is open for all ages up to 12th grade. To participate in the program, please ask your parent or Rebbi to send an email each week to thepircheinewsletter@gmail.com by Monday 2:00 pm. Please include your name, grade, **יְשִׁיבָה**, city, state, and contact # and your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful set of **מְקָרָאוֹת גְּדוּלוֹת חוֹמְשִׁים!**

Contestants so far:

Grade 3 — *Elazar Englard*; Yeshiva Ohr Yehuda; **Lakewood, NJ**.

Grade 6 — *Moshe Shmuel Guttman*; Yeshiva Torah Vodaath; **Brooklyn, NY**.

Grade 8 — *Benjamin Sardar, Yaakov Raful*; Yeshivat Ateret Torah; **Brooklyn, NY**.

Sage Sayings*

R' Yeruchom Levovitz נצ"ל, the world renowned **מְשִׁיבָה** of the Mirrer Yeshiva, once said, " **בְּעֵקֶב תָּא דְּמִשְׁחָא וּוְעָט מַעַן נִישַׁט** " — At the time just before the coming of **מְשִׁיחַ**, we will not be punished for actions that we could not accomplish, **נֶאֱרַר פֶּאָר וּוְעָט מִיר** — but for what we didn't do because we thought we couldn't do." The biggest failure is the failure to even try.

Heard around the שַׁבַּת table

